

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

December 15, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

If you are in high school, or the parent of a high school student, I've got exciting news for you!

This year's high school seniors and all of the students that follow them will now receive \$4,000 to help pay for the cost of college or technical training!

This week, the Legislature gave final approval to my Michigan Promise scholarship plan – to help make college more affordable for our families.

Next week, we will send a letter to first groups of students who will receive the Michigan Promise scholarship.

This letter will explain how Michigan students who attend college will be able to receive the \$4,000 scholarship.

Students can use this money to attend any 2-year or 4-year college or university in Michigan or a wide array of technical training programs.

Students who score well on the high school assessment will receive \$1,000 before the beginning of their freshman year, \$1,000 before the beginning of their sophomore year, and then the remaining \$2,000 when their sophomore year is complete.

Students who do not receive a qualifying score on the assessment test can earn their entire \$4,000 scholarship by successfully completing two years of post-secondary education at a community college, university, or training program.

The Michigan Promise scholarship opens the doors to education to all of our students.

Unlike the existing Merit Scholarship program which rewards less than half of our students based solely on standardized tests, which are usually taken in the 11th grade, the Michigan Promise sends a clear message to every student. To succeed in today's economy your education can not end at high school.

The opportunity for Michigan's students is obvious. But this is also a critical step for Michigan's economy. The states with the highest number of college graduates have the lowest unemployment rates and the fastest-growing economies.

Coupled with the rigorous high school curriculum standards that I fought for and signed into law, the Michigan Promise scholarship will position Michigan as the state that will lead the nation in educational achievement and economic growth.

\$4,000 to help every child to go to college ... what an amazing holiday gift for Michigan families!

Thank you for listening.